



Project proposal

“Review of forest rehabilitation initiatives - Lessons from the past”

Scope of the study/review

Website <http://www.cifor.cgiar.org/rehab>

Looking at “Forest Rehabilitation Initiatives” which we consider to be

Deliberate activities¹ aimed at artificial and/or natural regeneration of trees² on formerly forested grasslands, brushlands, scrublands, or barren areas³ for the purpose of enhancing productivity, livelihood, and/or environmental service benefits⁴.

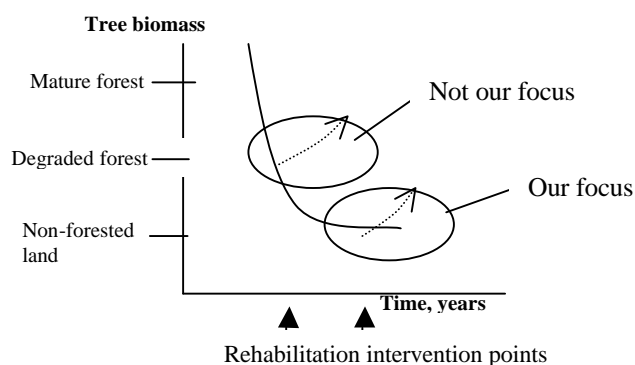
The focus of review would be initiatives that aim to actually establish trees on formerly forested land; and not be strictly technical trials of species or planting design, or assessments of success or impacts, or creation of manuals/ guidelines, or larger policy or institutional changes not directly related to a specific rehabilitation initiative. Integrated projects with forest rehabilitation components will also be included in this review.

¹Deliberate activities could include

1. Technical interventions: protection, planting, site management, silvicultural practices
2. New or revised socio-economic arrangements: marketing, financial and economic incentives, infrastructure, access, education and awareness, authority and responsibility arrangements, distribution of costs and benefits, extension and capacity building
3. New or revised institutional arrangements: land tenure, policies, rules and regulations, enforcement, institutions (customary/local and State level), monitoring

²Artificial and/or natural regeneration of trees - It will include any rehabilitation methods that involve trees – from agroforestry to plantations to assisted natural regeneration.

³Formerly forested grasslands, brushlands, scrublands, or barren areas – The focus will be restricted to initiatives that aim to put trees back on formerly forested lands, and not include the rehabilitation of degraded or secondary forest areas.



Modified from van Noordwijk *et al.* (2003)

Formerly forested lands include grasslands, brushlands, scrublands, or barren areas severely impacted by intensive and/or repeated disturbance with consequently inhibited or delayed forest regrowth. Questions on existing land cover and % tree cover could help clarify status of the site prior to the rehabilitation initiative. Intensive and/or repeated disturbances could include mining, overextraction of wood, repeated fires, overgrazing, intensive agriculture, failed plantations, invasive species, floods, drought, and combinations of the above. For the purpose of this review, rehabilitation of mined areas will be excluded.

⁴Purpose of enhancing productivity, livelihood, and/or environmental service benefits – Objectives could span the whole range from productivity to livelihood and/or environmental benefits for different stakeholders. Examples: Production of timber, fuelwood, pulp and paper, poles, charcoal, or NTFPs; agroforestry; biodiversity conservation; watershed functions; soil conservation; carbon sequestration; greening of bare land; or any combination.

Type of environments – Restricted to upland and lowland areas, and excluding wetlands.

Forestry sector involvement - Restrict to projects that **the forestry sector** has been involved in in terms of jurisdiction, planning, or management.

Reasons for such focus/ scope

1. The concept as used here is an expansion from traditional views of forest rehabilitation or reforestation which focus primarily on the technical aspects. New or revised socio-economic and institutional interventions that bring about rehabilitation of formerly forested sites are also included. Often lack of such socio-economic and institutional interventions are the primary constraints to bringing back trees on such lands.
2. The focus is restricted to rehabilitation of grasslands, brushlands, scrublands, or barren areas because
 - Potentially different management interventions are called for in the rehabilitation of grasslands, brushlands, scrublands, or barren areas versus rehabilitation of degraded forest areas
 - Focusing on formerly forested lands will hopefully help to delimit the range of initiatives being considered to a logical identifiable threshold
 - Bringing back forests on grasslands, brushlands, scrublands, or barren areas could be important in helping to reduce degrading pressures on existing forests
3. Rehabilitation of mined areas will be excluded because tenure of mined lands is often very clear and rehabilitation constraints are usually primarily technical. A large body of knowledge already exists on technical methods to rehabilitate post-mined lands.
4. Wetlands will be excluded because of the need to constrain the review to a manageable size.
5. Restricted to projects that the forestry sector has been involved in for ease of gathering data. This does not necessarily imply projects on forest lands alone, since the forestry sector could have been involved in planning and managing restoration projects on agricultural and other lands as well.